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PRELIMINARY REPORT.

New York, April 4th, 1865.

Dr. J. FOSTER JENKINS,

General Secretary United States Sanitary Commission.

DEAR SIR:—The accompanying report, marked "A," from J. C. Dalton, M. D., Professor of Physiology and Microscopic Anatomy, in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, will put you in possession of the leading facts connected with our voyage from New York to Wilmington, on the Commission's steamer Chase.

In obedience to instructions from the Standing Committee of the Commission, we left New York on Saturday, March 11th, at 9 P. M., for Beaufort, North Carolina. We arrived there on Tuesday, March 14th, at 4.30 P. M. I immediately communicated, by telegraph, with Dr. Page at Newbern, and informed him of our arrival. After waiting some hours without reply from Dr. Page, who was absent at the front near Kinston where Gen. Schofield was pushing the enemy vigorously, I endeavored to secure a landing for such stores as we wished to send from the cargo of the Chase to Newbern. This I failed to do from the fact that the only wharf at the terminus of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad was in possession of the Construction Corps, and used entirely for the landing of locomotives and other rolling stock. Accordingly, I chartered the J. H. Maitland, a schooner, intending to use her as a store boat. The J. H. Maitland, at this time, had on board coal for the navy, which Capt. West, in command of the fleet in Beaufort Harbor, offered to remove as speedily as possible.

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